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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**MAN INDICTED FOR \$1.5 MILLION FRAUD AND
SELLING FIREARMS TO A FELON**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that STEPHEN A. HALL, 49, Milan, Indiana, was charged in two indictments late Tuesday by a federal grand jury sitting in Indianapolis. One for mail fraud, wire fraud, money laundering and tax evasion, following an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service. The other indictment was for selling firearms to a felon and possessing and selling an unregistered firearm.

The fraud indictment alleges that HALL perpetrated a scheme in which he convinced Floyd Werner, the victim, that he owned the rights to substantial coal deposits. Hall and Werner agreed that Werner would invest money in the mine while Hall would manage the

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mining operation. The indictment alleges that in fact HALL did not own mineral rights to the land he represented to Werner that he owned, and the entire coal mining venture was nothing more than a scheme devised to defraud Werner of \$1.5 million.

The firearms indictment alleges that HALL sold firearms to a person he knew, or had reasonable cause to believe, was a felon. It also alleges that HALL possessed and sold an unregistered silencer.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Winfield D. Ong, who is prosecuting the case for the government, the fraud charges have a maximum possible prison sentence of 30 years and a maximum possible fine of \$1,000,000, and the firearms charges have a maximum possible prison sentence of 10 years and a maximum possible fine of \$250,000. An initial hearing will be scheduled before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Indianapolis.

The indictment is an allegation only, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

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